

1 In the Claims:

- 1 1. (original) A retractable tether for a pet, comprising:
2 a) a collar;
3 b) a leash; and
4 c) a pair of retractors;
5 wherein said leash is retractably connected to said
6 collar by said pair of retractors.
- 1 2. (original) The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said
2 collar is slender; and
3 wherein said collar is elongated.
- 1 3. (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 1,
2 wherein said collar has a pair of ends;
3 wherein said collar has a ring; and
4 wherein said ring of said collar is attached to ~~the~~ a
5 first end of said collar by said first end of said collar
6 passing therethrough, doubling back onto itself, and
7 being affixed to itself.
- 1 4. (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 3,
2 wherein ~~the~~ a second end of said collar passes freely
3 through said ring of said collar, doubles back onto
4 itself, and is adjustably and replaceably affixed to
5 itself by hook and loop fasteners; and
6 wherein said hook and loop fasteners of said collar are
7 disposed on facing surfaces of said second end of said
8 collar.

1 5. (original) The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said
2 leash is slender;
3 wherein said leash is elongated.

1 6. (original) The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said
2 leash has a pair of ends; and
3 wherein said pair of ends of said leash are operatively
4 connected to said pair of retractors, respectively.

1 7. (original) The tether as defined in claim 1, wherein said
2 pair of retractors are diametrically opposed to each
3 other; and
4 wherein said pair of retractors are attached to said
5 collar.

1 8. (original) The tether as defined in claim 6, wherein each
2 retractor comprises a housing;
3 wherein each retractor comprises a retracting mechanism;
4 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor is
5 operatively connected within said housing of an
6 associated retractor; and
7 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor is
8 operatively connected to an associated end of said leash.

1 9. (original) The tether as defined in claim 8, wherein said
2 housing of each retractor is generally cylindrically-
3 shaped; and
4 wherein said housing of each retractor extends generally
5 normally to said collar.

1 10. (original) The tether as defined in claim 8, wherein said
2 housing of each retractor has a slit;
3 wherein said slit in said housing of each retractor
4 extends axially therealong; and
5 wherein said leash extends through said slit in said
6 housing of each retractor.

1 11. (original) The tether as defined in claim 10, wherein
2 said retracting mechanism of each retractor comprises an
3 axle; and
4 wherein said retracting mechanism of each retractor
5 comprises a recoilable spring.

1 12. (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 11,
2 wherein said axle of said retracting mechanism of each
3 retractor extends axially within said housing of said
4 retracting mechanism of ~~an~~ said associated retractor;
5 wherein said axle of said retracting mechanism of each
6 retractor extends rotatably within said housing of said
7 retracting mechanism of said associated retractor; and
8 wherein an end of said leash extends through said slit
9 in said housing of said associated retractor and is
10 attached to said axle of said retracting mechanism of
11 said associated retractor.

1 13. (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 11,
2 wherein said recoilable spring of said retracting
3 mechanism of each retractor operatively connects said
4 axle of said retracting mechanism of ~~an~~ said associated
5 retractor to said housing of said associated retractor.

- 1 14. (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 11,
2 wherein said recoilable spring of said retracting
3 mechanism of each retractor allows said leash to freely
4 recoil and be automatically wrapped around said axle of
5 said retracting mechanism of ~~an~~ said associated retractor
6 when tension is removed from said leash.
- 1 15. (original) The tether as defined in claim 11, wherein
2 each retractor comprises a ratchet mechanism.
- 1 16. (currently amended) The tether as defined in claim 15,
2 wherein said ratchet mechanism of each retractor
3 operatively connects said axle of said retracting
4 mechanism of ~~an~~ said associated retractor to said housing
5 of said associated retractor.
- 1 17. (original) The tether as defined in claim 15, wherein
2 said ratchet mechanism of each retractor does not allow
3 said leash to freely recoil and be automatically wrapped
4 around said axle of said retracting mechanism of an
5 associated retractor when tension is removed from said
6 leash, but rather requires an initial tug on said leash
7 and maintaining tension thereon to release said ratchet
8 mechanism of said associated retractor to cause said
9 leash to wrap around said axle of said retracting
10 mechanism of said associated retractor.